

Marco DOWIDAT-ESKES, *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: No.: Q96499
Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): Method for producing a patterned linoleum sheeting, comprising the steps:
 - (a) Applying a flat layer of a non-linoleum material to at least portion of the surface of a green linoleum and/or introducing a non-linoleum material into predetermined recesses in the green linoleum,
 - (b) Cutting the resulting green linoleum into pieces of a predetermined length,
 - (c) Layering the cut green linoleum pieces to form a tiled stack of sheets and
 - (d) Calendering the tiled stack of sheets to form patterned linoleum sheeting.
2. Method for producing a patterned linoleum sheeting, comprising the steps:
 - (a') Applying a non-linoleum material in the form of a solution, paste, suspension or dispersion to the scraped linoleum mixture and calendering the scraped linoleum mixture furnished with the non-linoleum material to form a green linoleum or a finished linoleum sheeting.
3. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the green linoleum obtained in step (a') is processed further by:
 - (b) Cutting the resulting green linoleum into pieces of a predetermined length,

- (c) Layering the cut green linoleum pieces to form a tiled stack of sheets and
- (d) Calendering the tiled stack of sheets to form a patterned linoleum sheeting.

4. (currently amended): Method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein after step (a'), a flat layer of a non-linoleum material is applied to at least part of the surface of this green linoleum and/or a non-linoleum material is introduced into predetermined recesses in this green linoleum.

5. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~Claim 1, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metallic material and/or a pigment that differs from the pigment(s) optionally used for coloring the linoleum mixture.

6. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~Claim 1, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metal powder, a metal paste, an effect pigment, a luster pigment or a pearlescent effect pigment.

7. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~Claim 1, wherein the non-linoleum material is an aluminum powder, an aluminum paste or an effect pigment based on mica or mica minerals or a polyester-mica.

8. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 and 4 through 7~~Claim 1, wherein the non-linoleum material is applied as a flat layer to the entire width or only a portion of the green linoleum and/or is introduced into predetermined groove-like recesses which are present over the entire width or only a portion of the width of the green linoleum.

9. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 and 4 through 8~~Claim 1, wherein the flat layer is applied to the green linoleum in a thickness of 5 μm to 1000 μm .

10. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 and 4 through 9~~Claim 1, wherein the recesses in the green linoleum have a depth in the range of 5% to 60%, based on the thickness of the green linoleum.

11. (original): Method for producing a patterned linoleum sheeting, comprising the steps:

- Producing a single-color or multicolor green linoleum from a linoleum mixture,
- Coating the single-color or multicolor green linoleum with a non-linoleum material over at least a portion of its surface,
- Processing the coated green linoleum to form granules or chips either immediately or after being cut into preferably approximately equally large halves in the calendering direction with the sections then being layered one above the other or folding the green linoleum once or several times,
- Producing a linoleum sheet from the resulting granular particles or chips by calendering same and optionally
- Further processing the resulting linoleum sheet in the usual way to form a final linoleum sheeting.

12. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metallic material or a pigment that differs from the pigment(s) optionally used for coloring the linoleum mixture.

13. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in Claim 11-~~or 12~~, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metal powder, a metal paste, an effect pigment, a luster pigment or a pearlescent effect pigment.

14. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 11 through 13~~Claim 11, wherein the non-linoleum material is an aluminum powder, an aluminum paste, an effect pigment based on mica or mica materials or a polyester-mica.

15. (currently amended): Patterned linoleum sheeting obtainable by a method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 14~~Claim 1.

16. (original): Use of a patterned linoleum sheeting as claimed in Claim 15 as a floor covering, as tiles, a wall covering or decorative covering.

17. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metallic material and/or a pigment that differs from the pigment(s) optionally used for coloring the linoleum mixture.

18. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metallic material and/or a pigment that differs from the pigment(s) optionally used for coloring the linoleum mixture.

19. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metal powder, a metal paste, an effect pigment, a luster pigment or a pearlescent effect pigment.

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20. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the non-linoleum material is a metal powder, a metal paste, an effect pigment, a luster pigment or a pearlescent effect pigment.

21. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the non-linoleum material is an aluminum powder, an aluminum paste or an effect pigment based on mica or mica minerals or a polyester-mica.

22. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the non-linoleum material is an aluminum powder, an aluminum paste or an effect pigment based on mica or mica minerals or a polyester-mica.

23. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the non-linoleum material is applied as a flat layer to the entire width or only a portion of the green linoleum and/or is introduced into predetermined groove-like recesses which are present over the entire width or only a portion of the width of the green linoleum.

24. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the non-linoleum material is applied as a flat layer to the entire width or only a portion of the green linoleum and/or is introduced into predetermined groove-like recesses which are present over the entire width or only a portion of the width of the green linoleum.

25. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the flat layer is applied to the green linoleum in a thickness of 5 μm to 1000 μm .

26. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the flat layer is applied to the green linoleum in a thickness of 5 μm to 1000 μm .

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27. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the recesses in the green linoleum have a depth in the range of 5% to 60%, based on the thickness of the green linoleum.

28. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the recesses in the green linoleum have a depth in the range of 5% to 60%, based on the thickness of the green linoleum.

29. (new): Patterned linoleum sheeting obtainable by a method as claimed in Claim 2.

30. (new): Patterned linoleum sheeting obtainable by a method as claimed in Claim 11.